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August 13, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket Numbers 98N-1230; 96P-0418; 97P-0197

I'm a frequent consumer of eggs as they are an inexpensive and convenient source of protein. However, I find that I worry more and more about contracting salmonella from them due to all the reported incidents of illness and death from contaminated eggs. I've become hesitant about using raw eggs in mayonnaise and even about getting raw egg on my hands when preparing egg dishes.

U.S. farm products, such as eggs, used to meet such high standards and were a source of pride to all of us. Now, it seems that the quality and healthfulness of many agricultural products, e.g., beef, pork, chicken, etc., have been compromised in order to increase production and profit.

I'm writing to request that much more be done to protect the consumer from contaminated eggs. I don't believe that bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulation of egg refrigeration temperatures are sufficient safeguards. More is required!

I think that the decline in the safeness of eggs is due to the practice of forced molting, which seriously weakens a hen's immune system and makes it more susceptible to infectious diseases such as salmonella.

In addition, I feel a growing reluctance to purchase eggs that are produced through the suffering of dumb, dependent creatures who are entirely at our mercy. And I do strongly believe that hens in a forced molt suffer when deprived of food and water for long periods.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to ban the practice of forced molting. I think we would all be willing to pay a little more for safe eggs produced humanely.

Sincerely,

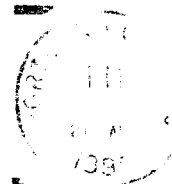
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96P-0418

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DOCKETS MANAGEMENT BRANCH (HFA-305)
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Re: Docket #'s 98N-1230; ~~98P-0998~~ 97P-0197

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number:

98N-1230/ **C367**

See File Number:

97P-0197/ **C368**

96P-0418/ **C367**